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A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

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BOLTON WANDERERS

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INTRODUCTION

If promotion was awarded for sheer graft, the Wanderers would have had the most deserving of cases. In many respects the season was like a fairy tale, relegation contenders by mid-October to become promotion chasers by January was in itself a remarkable achievement.

Surely not even the most optimistic of supporters could have expected the Wanderers to embark on a club record 23 game unbeaten league run after seeing Stoke City take maximum points from their visit to Burnden in October.

After this run began, in a 2-2 draw at Bury, a massive 17 points separated Bolton from leaders Grimsby Town and Southend United. In the five months that

followed the team put together an effective set of performances to become the divisions most consistent side.

The only blemish during this period was the embarrassing Leyland DAF Cup exit at Blackpool and the narrow defeat in the FA Cup at Manchester United at least gave both players and supporters alike a taste of the big time that everyone craves for.

After some poor results during March the Wanderers got their second wind and took the season right to the wire. Although it was Grimsby Town who deprived Bolton of second division football on goal difference, it was Cambridge United who put together an amazing run to deservedly take the championship.

Some of the Wanderers best football of the season came away from home, notably against the better teams, and is reflected in a total of 10 successes on opponents territory to record a post war club record.

The tension of those final weeks, last minute goals scored and conceded, the euphoria of reaching Wembley in the play off final all culminated in a heart-break that was akin to suffering relegation.

Phil Neal and Mick Brown now have the job of raising morale and after two near misses making it a third time lucky for a return to division two.



**Bolton Wanderers line up
1990/91**

Back Row: P. Hughes, B. Cowdrill, M. Came, M. Winstanley, P. Comstive, A. Stubbs, N. Spooner, R. Savage.

Middle Row: P. Neal, M. Brown, G. Henshaw, D. Crombie, D. Felgate, C. Clarke, K. Rose, G. Brown, N. Fisher, S. Carroll, E. Simpson.

Seated: J. Darby, D. Reeves, P. Brown, T. Philliskirk, S. Storer, S. Thompson, D. Burke, D. Oliver, S. Green, M. Jeffrey.

Front Row: N. Bentham, L. Bragg, C. Lewin, P. Lewin, P. Leedham, B. Smith, A. Jones, S. Gerard, S. Birks, D. Edge, S. Coffey.

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JULY 1990

The Wanderers kicked off the season with new sponsors when Reebok signed a three year deal with the club that replaced the shirt sponsorship arrangement with Normid. The change colours used for away games was also changed with yellow shirts replacing the traditional red and a modern version of the sky-blue shirt was introduced.

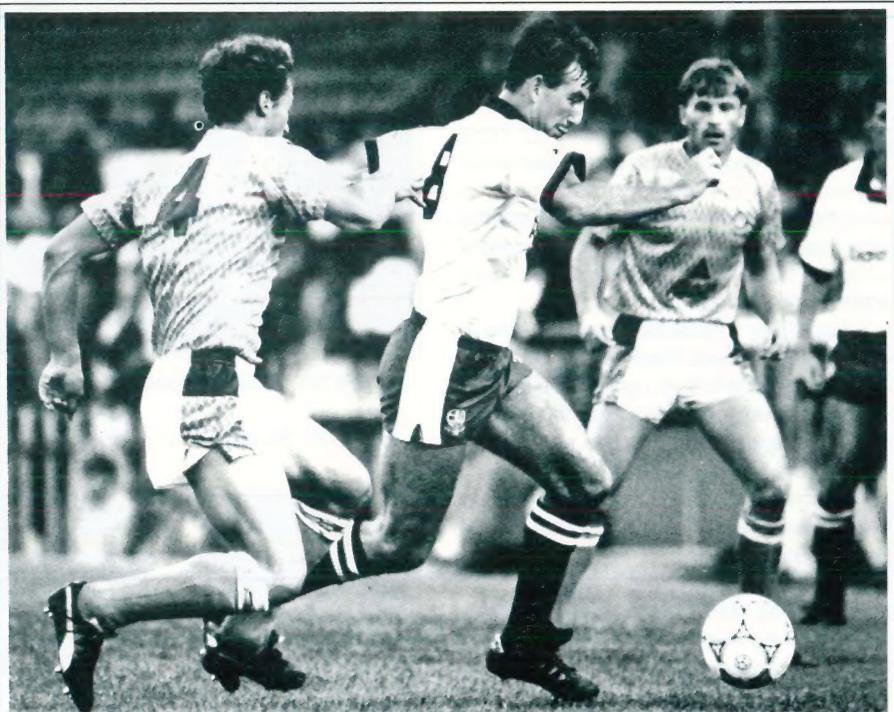
The only new face on the professional staff was that of 'old boy' David Burke, who rejoined the club nine years after being given a free transfer in a £60,000 deal with FA Cup runners-up Crystal Palace. Since leaving Burden in 1981 the former England youth international had clocked up 270 league appearances with both the Londoners and Huddersfield Town.

On the last day of the month 19 players all took part at some stage in a 5-1 win at HFS Loans league side Lancaster City. Steve Thompson scored the opener after 11 minutes, Phil Brown hit the

target twice for what were to be his only goals of the season, Barry Cowdrill and Alan Stubbs also found the net.

Stubbs, Neil Fisher and goal-

keeper Chris Clarke all appeared in the first team for the first time during this game whilst ex Wigan Athletic player Ian Griffiths was included during a trial spell.



Steve Thompson, scorer of the first goal of the term at Lancaster, in action against Blackpool in the Lancashire Manx Cup.



The Wanderers line up with Lincoln United before their pre-season friendly.

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AUGUST 1990

Preparations continued with a visit to Central Midlands League club Lincoln United managed by Dean Crombie's younger brother Allen. Barry Cowdrill, Scott Green and David Reeves get the goals in a 3-0 win.

The Lancashire Manx Cup got under way with a visit to Wigan Athletic which ended goalless. Phil Neal, looking to strengthen the forward line, agreed a £100,000 fee with Bradford City for Tony Adcock but the players wage demands proved to be a stumbling block and the deal fell through. Midfielder Ian Griffiths also missed out on becoming a Wanderer when he turned down a two year contract after a trial period.

Two Tony Philliskirk penalties, one in each half, defeated Blackpool at Burnden and this was followed up four days later with a 3-0 home success against Burnley to top the group and win the privilege of hosting the final of the competition.

Burnley, who could have won the group themselves, went behind to a 9th minute Stuart Storer goal. Steve Thompson stroked a pinpoint free kick round the Burnley wall and out of reach of Chris Pearce for the second on the half hour and David Reeves wrapped it up three minutes from time.

Preston North End were the visitors for the final and they went in front in the 31st minute with a spectacular volley from Graham Shaw. David Reeves, who had gone through the final 17 games of the previous season without a goal, made it three goals in four days to help Bolton lift the cup.

His first came in the 37th minute with a driving angled shot past Alan Kelly and his second, just four minutes away from a penalty shoot out, was a typical forwards goal as he put Kelly under enough pressure to force a mistake and claim the match-winner that bounced over the line off his chest.

The league season opened with an away game at Shrewsbury and the Wanderers made a good start even if not in the most convincing style.

Substitute Stuart Storer, who had replaced Barry Cowdrill in midfield, snatched the points with an 84th minute winner after the game looked to be heading for a goalless draw.



ABOVE: The Wanderers celebrate after defeating Preston North End in the Lancashire Manx Cup Final.

BETWEEN: Stuart Storer scores the first league goal of the season—the winner at Shrewsbury Town.



Town keeper Steve Perks made a fatal fumble at the near post when he allowed Tony Philliskirk's cross out of his grasp which left Storer with the simplest tap in goal.

If the performance at Gay Meadow wasn't convincing, four days later at Leeds Road it most definitely was as Huddersfield were beaten 3-0 in the first leg of a first round Rumbelows cup tie.

The new yellow shirts were worn for the first time as the club recorded their best away win in the competition since October 1973. Julian Darby powered home

a left foot strike after only ten minutes and got a second in the 28th minute from close range.

In the 71st minute Barry Cowdrill was brought down and Tony Philliskirk netted his first goal of the season from the penalty spot. Huddersfield won a penalty themselves four minutes from time when David Burke brought down Gary Barnett but Dave Felgate saved Neil Parsley's effort to blot out the Yorkshire sides hopes of giving themselves a fighting chance in the second leg.

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SEPTEMBER 1990

Bradford City, relegated from the second division and without an away win in 26 games, ended their run with a 68th minute winner from Lee Duxbury at Burnden.

It was a disappointing performance to open their home account by the Wanderers, especially after the impressive mid-week cup win and this game heralded what was to be the club's worst spell of the season.

Mark Winstanley became one of the first victims to suffer under the new law designed to punish the so called "professional foul" during the second leg of the Rumbelows Cup first round tie against Huddersfield at Burnden. He was sent off in the 33rd minute for denying Keith Edwards a scoring opportunity but from the resulting penalty Dave Felgate saved Edwards' effort.

By then it was 1-1 with Alan Stubbs, making his full debut, giving Bolton the lead before Kieran O'Regan equalised for the Terriers. Julian Darby hit a second half goal to give 10 man Wanderers victory on the night and a 5-1 aggregate scoreline.

The Wanderers faced Huddersfield for the third time in eleven days—this time in a league game at Leeds Road. Everything that could go wrong did with Huddersfield winning 4-0 to send Bolton to their 500th post war league defeat away from home. Added to this was the sending off of Julian Darby in the 36th minute for two bookable offences which left Bolton with two players now under suspension later in the month.

Iwan Roberts scored in the first minute and this was followed by a hat trick from Keith Edwards, including his 250th league goal, but Town also ended the game with ten men when Neil Parsley was sent off for foul play.

First half goals from Dale Jasper and Andy Sussex put Crewe Alexandra into the driving seat at Burnden and it needed a spark from Tony Philliskirk to bring Bolton back into the game with a looping header in the 53rd minute. Scott Green equalised with a 30 yard blast and five minutes from time Julian Darby followed suit to squeeze his shot just inside the post to record a 3-2 win.

A reshuffled defence appeared at home to Preston with Mark Came out injured and Mark Winstanley suspended, Alan Stubbs and Dean Crombie stepped in. The game was only 25 seconds old when former Wanderer John Thomas broke his leg in a collision with Steve Thompson and North End then went in front through Martin James.

Julian Darby equalised for the Wanderers after the interval but North end gained revenge for their Lancashire Cup defeat when Ian Boagey converted a 63rd minute penalty awarded for Scott Green's rash tackle on Gregg Fee.

The Wanderers were rocked by the news that midfielder Robbie Savage had lost the fight to save his career after breaking his leg against Preston the previous season.

Bolton were within 13 minutes of earning a

point at Brentford after twice coming from behind. Eddie May put the Londoners in front in the 7th minute but Scott Green's angled shot in the 24th minute levelled it. Garry Brooke put the Bees in front before David Reeves blasted home a second equaliser for his first league goal since March.

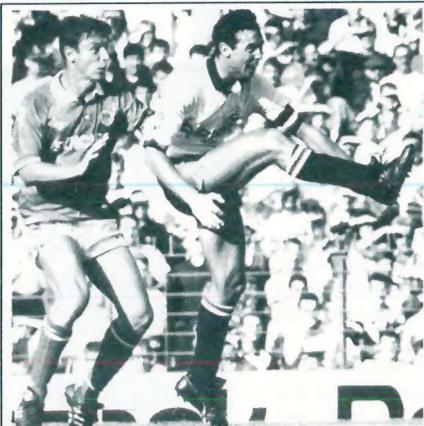
Late Goals from Keith Jones and Dean Holdsworth gave Brentford a 4-2 win and their first home goals of the season.

After conceding 12 goals in only 4 games centre half Mark Seagraves joined the Wanderers in a £100,000 transfer from Manchester City. He went straight into the side for the visit to first division Coventry City in the first leg of the Rumbelows Cup second round.

The Wanderers matched Coventry for 80 minutes with a top class show, two Steve Livingstone goals, one deep into injury time, giving them a 4-2 win. Bolton only caved in after being reduced to 10 men when Dean Crombie fell foul of the clampdown on the professional foul.

Twice Bolton led, Tony Philliskirk getting the goals, his second a curling left foot shot in the 54th minute, enough to win any goal of the season competition. Cyrille Regis and Kevin Gallagher got the goals that got Coventry back on level terms before the late disaster.

Wigan Athletic inflicted the Wanderers fourth consecutive defeat when they won 2-1 at Springfield Park despite playing with 10 men for 77 minutes after Neil Rimmer was sent off. Darren Patterson and Bryan Griffiths penalty goal gave Wigan a first half advantage before a Tony Philliskirk penalty thirteen minutes from time put the Wanderers in sight of a face-saver. In the dying seconds Mark Winstanley headed against the crossbar but Wigan held out.



Scott Green blasts the equaliser against Crewe Alexandra at Burnden, and Julian Darby Celebrates his winner.



BELOW: Mark Seagraves is welcomed to Burnden by Dean Crombie, Steve Thompson, Dave Felgate and Mark Winstanley.

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OCTOBER 1990

Former Liverpool and England midfielder Sammy Lee signed for the Wanderers in a free transfer from Southampton and was introduced to the Burnden crowd prior to the game against Mansfield Town.

Steve Thompson made his 300th league appearance for Bolton who were held 1-1 to record the club's 100th draw in the third division. The lowest league crowd of the season 3631, saw Wayne Fairclough head the Stags in front before David Reeves equalised.

Lee made his debut against Stoke City at Burnden where a 61st minute header from Gareth Evans gave the Potteries club maximum points. After the game the Wanderers were second from bottom of the league with just seven points from nine games.

A foot injury was to keep Mark Seagraves out of the team for the remainder of the month which continued with a 3-2 defeat by Coventry City in the return leg of the Rumbelows Cup second round. City registered their first away win since March thanks to two goals from Cyrille Regis and one from Kevin Gallagher. Tony Philliskirk again found the target twice, a free kick on the stroke of half time and a last minute penalty giving the scoreline a semblance of respectability.

The turn-round in form and fortune began on 13th October at Bury. Two players later to join the Wanderers were to have an influence on the result after Steve Thompson had scored his first goal of the season to give Bolton a half time advantage.

Mark Patterson equalised for the Shakers before Alan Knill headed them in front but, a quarter of an hour from time, Tony Cunningham stuck out a hand to intercept a Thompson corner and Tony Philliskirk scored from the spot to share the spoils.

The revival continued with a visit from Manchester City, 5th in division one and previously unbeaten in 10 games, for Freddie Hill's testimonial. In terms of footballing issues it meant nothing that the Wanderers won 2-1, but the performance with goals from Tony Philliskirk and Steve Thompson before Adrian Heath's late consolation, raised the spirits at Burnden.

A 16th minute goal from Stuart Storer ended Leyton Orient's unbeaten home record, this being one of only a handful of chances Wanderers created while the Londoners failed to convert any of a whole selection of good chances.

The Wanderers weathered a sustained first half assault by Rotherham at Burnden, but when they turned the tables after the interval they failed to capitalise and the game ended scoreless.

Both teams, who had been in the previous season's promotion race, were found wanting in front of goal but the frustration for Bolton was there for all to see when Phil Brown's shot, five minutes into injury time, deflected wide off a defender with keeper Billy Mercer well beaten.

Just before half time Sammy Lee limped out of the game with a recurrence of a knee injury, it was to keep him out for the remainder of the season.

After failing to win any of the previous four home league games the Wanderers finally cracked it and registered their 1000th home league victory thanks to a Tony Philliskirk goal against Swansea City.

The goal, a spectacular overhead scissors kick, came in the 31st minute and only a series of good saves from Lee Bracey prevented Swansea from being completely overwhelmed.



Sammy Lee is introduced to the crowd prior to the game against Mansfield Town.



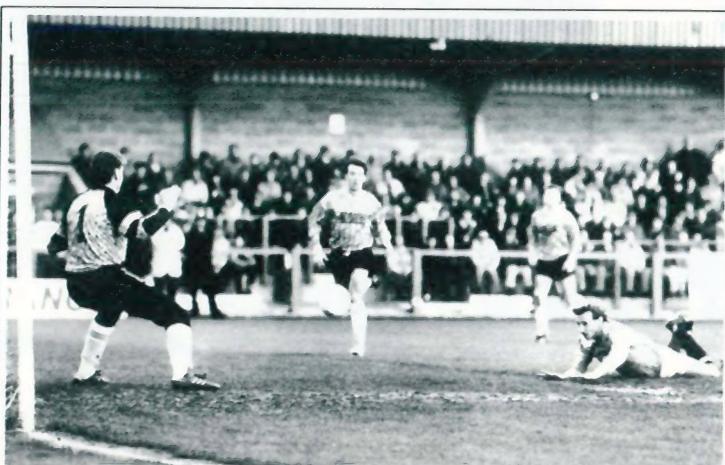
David Reeves head home the Wanderers equaliser.



Tony Philliskirk's spectacular winner against Swansea City at Burnden.

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NOVEMBER 1990



TOP: David Reeves pounces to score the opener at Chester City.
MIDDLE: Reeves is on hand again to score the Wanderers third goal against Reading at Burnden.
BOTTOM: Julian Darby dives in to score the first goal in the FA Cup tie at Witton Albion.

Twin strikers David Reeves and Tony Philliskirk accepted two gift goals to defeat Chester City at The Moss Rose, Macclesfield. The 'home' side wasted a number of glorious first half chances before Reeves pounced on a mistake by defender Martin Lane to open the Wanderers account two minutes after the interval.

Reeves then came out on top against his brother Alan when, two minutes later, the Chester defender failed to clear and David fired a shot at goalkeeper Billy Stewart that rebounded to Philliskirk who drove the ball into the top corner of the net.

Mark Seagraves was a surprise selection, returning to the side without match practice after a five game lay off, but he played his part in helping the team record their 200th post war league victory on opponents territory.

The Wanderers began their Leyland DAF Cup aspirations with a home qualifying tie against holders Tranmere Rovers at Burnden. The Merseysiders ended Bolton's interest in the previous season's competition but some revenge was earned when the game was decided in the final minute by a David Reeves goal.

Once again Dave Felgate kept a clean sheet, his fifth in a row which created a post war club record for competitive fixtures.

The Welsh keeper was looking to extend his record to the league but in the next game his hopes were dashed when Mick Gooding put Reading ahead at Burnden with a disputed goal.

Bolton dominated the second half, man of the match Steve Thompson equalising in the 57th minute with a 25 yard drive eluding keeper Phil Burns. Substitute Gary Henshaw then won a penalty and Thompson assumed Tony Philliskirk's responsibilities after the striker had gone off injured to put the Wanderers into the lead.

Two minutes from Time David Reeves made it 3-1 when Phil Brown's cross rebounded off the post. The result left the Wanderers in 16th position yet only six points separated them from third placed stoke City.

Mark Came was placed on the transfer list at his own request after failing to regain his place in the side which he lost through injury in September.

Bolton could not have been accorded a warmer welcome at Wincham Park, home of HFS Loans League leaders Witton Albion for their FA Cup first round tie. Albion were playing at this stage of the competition for the first time in 24 years, whilst the Wanderers, on a hiding to nothing and without leading scorer Tony Philliskirk through injury, were facing non league opposition for the first time since 1971.

A waterlogged pitch didn't provide an ideal playing surface and the referee came within a hair's breadth of calling the game off.

A solid professional performance, in trying conditions, earned a second round place after headed goals from Julian Darby and substitute Paul Comstive settled the tie before an injury time consolation for the pony-tailed Karl Thomas. The Match of the Day cameras had failed to witness any giant-killing.

The Wanderers then proved to everyone that they had turned the corner with a 1-0 win at second placed Grimsby Town. The East Coast club, beaten only once since winning promotion from Division four, fell to a 24th minute goal from stand in striker Scott Green.

A maximum five wins out of five during November secured the Barclays Third Division Manager of the Month award for Phil Neal.

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DECEMBER 1990

Scott Green reverted to his midfield slot, in place of the injured Steve Thompson, for the visit of Tranmere Rovers. Green again got into the goalscoring act with a 10th minute header and Tony Philliskirk, back after his injury lay off, struck what was to prove the winning goal with a superb 18th minute free kick to put Bolton 2-0 up.

Two minutes later Jim Harvey drilled a 20 yard free kick into the net for Rovers but they couldn't prevent the Wanderers from registering their 100th third division victory at Burnden.

An arctic blast prevented the 2nd round FA Cup tie at Chesterfield from going ahead but three days later a seven goal thriller made the wait worth while.

Andy Morris put the fourth division side in front before goals from David Reeves, Tony Philliskirk and Steve Thompson gave Bolton what looked a comfortable lead three minutes into the second half. Chesterfield hit back to equalise through Dave Caldwell and John Cook but Stuart Storer's spectacular winner seven minutes from time secured a home tie against non-league opposition.

The cup success was overshadowed following the news of the death of the club Chairman Sam Jones.

The fifth anniversary of Phil Neal's management was marked with a 1-0 win over Fulham at Craven Cottage. The ninth win in a row came about thanks to a 68th minute tap in from Tony Philliskirk after Phil Brown's shot had been parried by goalkeeper Jim Stannard.

After a goalless first half against Blackpool, at Bloomfield Road in the Leyland DAF Cup, the Wanderers fell apart in devastating style. They could afford to lose 2-0 and still qualify for the knockout stages but incredibly the Seasiders got the goals they required from Paul Groves, Tony Sinclair and Alan Wright. This ended a 12 match unbeaten run and put Bolton out at the qualifying stage of the competition for the first time.

A quick recovery from the disappointment was needed and it looked to be in the shape of a 2-0 half time lead against Cambridge at Burnden. Stuart Storer and Steve Thompson hit classic goals to match the team's performance which was some of the most impressive of the season.

Just after the break Barry Cowdrill's cross flew across the face of the goal to beat everyone, a third at that moment would surely have secured the points. Instead, Cambridge, with their contrasting style of play, began to dominate and pulled a goal back through Phil Chapple.

Six minutes from time Dion Dublin completed United's comeback as the Wanderers defence eventually cracked under the pressure.

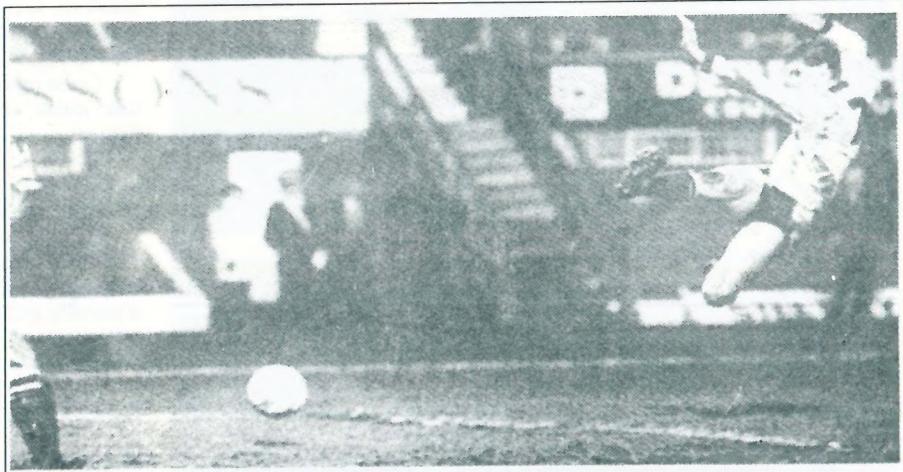
The year ended with two away games to test the team's resolve. Firstly a Boxing Day visit to Southend United, who were runaway league leaders and undefeated at home and

then a game at Birmingham City, where maximum points hadn't been taken since 1966.

At Roots Hall the Wanderers didn't throw in the towel when they went behind to a 67th minute strike from Steve Tilson. Substitute Scott Green became the hero with a deserved equaliser as Bolton finished the stronger side.

A trio of headers earned a 3-1 win at Birmingham who kept the Wanderers defence under almost constant pressure. Barry Cowdrill forced the first Bolton corner of the game in the 62nd minute prompting a spell that ended with Tony Philliskirk breaking the deadlock.

Ten minutes later Dennis Bailey equalised for the Midlanders, also with a header, before Julian Darby restored the advantage and David Reeves completed the scoring three minutes from time.



TOP: Scott Green rises to head home the first goal against Tranmere Rovers.
MIDDLE: Stuart Storer hits a spectacular winner in the FA Cup at Chesterfield.
BOTTOM: Steve Thompson rifles home the Wanderers second goal against Cambridge United.

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JANUARY 1991



It took only two minutes of the New Year's Day encounter with Bournemouth at Burnden for Julian Darby to put Bolton in front with a first time volley.

The Cherries came back before the interval when Luther Blissett converted a penalty after he had been pulled down by Dave Felgate on one of a number of dangerous runs from the former England international.

Paul Comstive capitalised on the blustery wind in the second half with two goals direct from corner kicks, his second going down as the club's 500th goal in the third division.

Tony Philliskirk wrapped things up to make it 4-1 when he converted a penalty awarded for hand ball by Sean O'Driscoll.

Four days later G. M. Vauxhall Conference side Barrow w

were the visitors in the third round of the FA Cup. A corner count of 16-0 in favour of the Wanderers explained their territorial advantage but in the end a 62nd minute header from Tony Philliskirk was all that separated the two teams.

Barrow boss Ray Wilkie claimed a moral victory but that counted for nothing as the draw for the next round gave the Wanderers an away tie at either Manchester United or Queens Park Rangers. The rivalry is such that Bolton supporters had to break the habit of a lifetime to cheer for a United victory to set up a lucrative local derby.

United duly obliged by defeating the Londoners 2-1 and so set off a mad rush for an allocation of only 10,000 tickets that went only half way to satisfying the demand.

Mark Patterson joined the Wanderers from neighbours Bury in a £65,000 deal and made an immediate impact when he came on as substitute at Bradford City. David Felgate had kept Bolton on terms in the first half but couldn't prevent Stephen Torpey heading City into a 67th minute lead.

Six minutes later Patterson made his first appearance in a Bolton shirt and within seconds was involved in the goalmouth scramble that led to Tony Philliskirk heading an equaliser.

As Patterson was just starting his Wanderers career another player left to take his first step into management. Dean Crombie moved to his



ABOVE LEFT: Mark Patterson in action on his home debut against Shrewsbury Town.
ABOVE: Julian Darby scores the first goal of 1991 against Bournemouth
BELOW: Paul Comstive's corner is heading for the net against Bournemouth for Bolton's 500th third division goal



home town club Lincoln City, who were lying 90th in the football league, as assistant manager having turned down offers from both Rochdale and Wrexham.

The Wanderers stuttered in their promotion drive with a 1-0 win against Shrewsbury Town at Burnden. Town's stubborn defence looked to have forced a goalless draw until Steve Thompson hammered a 20 yard drive into the bottom corners of the net with only three minutes remaining.

Phil Neal sprang a double pre-match surprise by dropping Paul Comstive and Mark Came in favour of Mark Patterson and Mark Seagraves. This was done knowing full well that he would have to change the side again a week later as Patterson was cup tied having appeared in Bury's humiliating defeat at Chorley.

The build up to the big game with Manchester United began with an injury scare to skipper Phil Brown. He eventually came through to put in

one of his best performances of the season, keeping United winger Lee Sharpe in check, but it was a case of so near yet so far for the Wanderers who received a standing ovation from their supporters.

The crowd of 43,293 was the biggest, with the exception of the Wembley finals, that the Wanderers have played in front of since February 1980 when they visited United in a first division fixture.

Bolton kept the Stretford End quiet for the opening 45 minutes and indeed if Tony Philliskirk had accepted the chance that fell his way just before half time things may have been different.

As it was United went through thanks to a 79th minute volley from Mark Hughes and to a fifth round tie at Norwich. For the Wanderers it was back to the promotion race, but at a price, Stuart Storer being lost to the cause for six weeks after pulling a hamstring.

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FEBRUARY 1991



ABOVE: Tony Philliskirk can only smile as Brentford's Terry Evans turns away after putting through his own goal.

Tony Philliskirk's scoring ability and David Felgate's goal saving agility kept the Wanderers promotion bandwagon on the move in a 2-1 win over Preston at Deepdale.

Philliskirk opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 16th minute after Greg Fee had hauled down Julian Darby. Eighteen minutes later Philliskirk was again on the mark this time from a free kick just outside the area.

North End hit back immediately with a goal from a Jeff Wrightson free kick and chances went begging at both ends, Felgate making an array of saves, whilst Philliskirk was denied a hat trick by the width of the crossbar.

Bolton climbed into the top three for the first time when they defeated Brentford 1-0, this being the first of four consecutive home games, also stretching their unbeaten league run to 17 games.

The Londoners were in the promotion frame themselves and the issue was settled in bizarre fashion. In the 21st minute, Brentford defender Terry Evans wrong footed his keeper Graham Benstead with a careless 25 yard backpass, when under no pressure, the ball ended up in the net.

The club's under-soil heating came to the fore as an arctic storm hit the Country. Exeter City agreed to switch their clash with the Wanderers to Burnden to beat the freeze, the return being scheduled to take place the following month.

Huddersfield Town's visit to Burnden was one of only four games to go ahead in England but Bolton had to rely on Philliskirk's 20th goal of the season to keep the unbeaten league run intact.

Debutant Gary Haylock put Town in front after 13 minutes and those who had

braved the sub-zero temperatures expected the worst. Dave Felgate kept off key Bolton in the game with some incredible saves, his most notable being in the final seconds to deny Kieran O'Regan. By then Philliskirk had earned a point thanks to a simple tap in when Steve Hardwick failed to hold a Mark Seagraves shot.

Exeter City then provided stubborn opposition as Bolton again failed to produce a performance to satisfy the supporters. David Reeves' 17th minute goal decided the issue but it didn't settle the teams nerves as they struggled to find their rhythm.

The biggest cheer of the evening, apart from the goal, was former Wanderer Trevor Morgan although he nor his Exeter team mates never looked like breaking through the Bolton defence.

A club record of 20 league games without defeat was equalled after a 0-0 draw against second placed Grimsby Town at Burnden. A 3-0 win would have sent the Wanderers to the top of the league but there was rarely a prospect of a goal in a dour top of the table struggle. David Reeves had two good chances inside the first 20 minutes, as Bolton made their best start to a game for a number of weeks, whilst Grimsby's Tom Watson struck the foot of the post after beating Dave Felgate who was making his 200th league appearance for the club.

Club records came tumbling down af-



ABOVE: David Reeves strikes the winner against Exeter City.

ter a 1-0 win at Reading thanks to a fierce 30 yard shot from Barry Cowdrill in the 33rd minute.

The victory, which was Bolton's first at Elm Park, brought about a new club record of 21 league games without defeat. It was the club's 8th away win of the season, thus equalling a post war record and, more importantly, lifted the Wanderers into second place, their highest league position for eight years.

February ended with speculation that Phil Neal was in the running to take over from Kenny Dalglish at Liverpool.



LEFT: This time Philliskirk takes the credit stealing in to hit the equaliser against Huddersfield.

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MARCH 1991

Tranmere keeper Eric Nixon denied Bolton a winning start to March with an heroic performance in a 1-1 draw at Prenton Park. In a stirring encounter Rovers edged in front six minutes after the interval through Tony Thomas.

Bolton refused to lie down and despite Nixon denying them time and again they were rewarded with Mark Patterson's first goal for the club nine minutes from time.

Captain Phil Brown put his name into the club record books by taking part in his 162nd consecutive game. He overtakes former keeper Jim McDonagh whose appearances were all in the Football League whilst Brown's record includes cup ties.

Phil Neal acknowledged his second Barclays Manager of the Month award as a tribute to the teams consistency during their unbeaten run. Unfortunately there was another worry on the injury front as Mark Patterson began to struggle with an abdominal problem.

The gutsy midfielder played his part in a 3-0 win over Fulham at Burnden when he scored the final goal in the dying seconds. In one of the most one sided affairs of the season Tony Philliskirk scored in the 6th minute and the 29th minute, the latter coming from the penalty spot as Bolton consolidated their place in the promotion frame, nine points in front of fourth placed Bury.

The Wanderers then had a night to forget, one when everything went wrong. The record unbeaten league run of 23 games stretching back to October crashed when Mansfield Town ran out 4-0 winners at Field Mill.

Town, who had managed to score only 10 goals in their previous 15 home games, looked to be continuing in the same vein after a scoreless first half. Then, three minutes after the interval, Steve Wilkinson broke the deadlock to be followed by two Wayne Fairclough goals and one from Trevor Christie—all in a 25 minute spell.

Bolton also lost Tony Philliskirk through injury during the first half in what was his 100th appearance for the club. The muscle strain was to keep him out of the next two games.

Hopes that the debacle at Mansfield was a one off were raised when Wigan Athletic were beaten 2-1 at Burnden in the next game. David Reeves headed Bolton in front in the 34th minute and then capitalised on an error by keeper Phil Hughes to set up Julian Darby for the second goal in the 68th minute.

Bryan Griffiths pulled one back for Wigan from the penalty spot eleven minutes from time. Mark Winstanley suffered an ankle injury in conceding the kick and this opened the door for Alan Stubbs to stake his claim for a place in the side.

Unfortunately promotion confidence was undermined when Bury came to Burnden and won 3-1. Defensive catastrophes cost the Wanderers dear as John McGinlay cashed in with a hat trick for the Shakers. Scott Green headed the Wanderers only consolation in the 64th minute whilst Steve Thompson would probably want to forget his 400th game for the club.

Bolton then found themselves two down with ten minutes remaining at Stoke City. Mark Delvin and Tony Kelly had scored in the early stages of the second half but two goals from Julian Darby and Stuart Storer sensationally rescued a point. Indeed

the Wanderers almost won the game at the death, Steve Thompson over-running the ball with the goal at his mercy.

The chasing pack in the promotion race got nearer as Exeter City ran out 2-1 winners at St. James' Park. Gary Marshall opened the scoring in the third minute of first half injury time and Darren Rowbottom headed a second in the 65th minute. David Reeves gave Bolton a chance with a scrambled effort 14 minutes from time but to no avail.

Tony Cunningham became the Wanderers second signing from Bury when he moved to Burnden in a £70,000 deal and another, David Lee, was involved in transfer talks but he remained at Gigg Lane.

Cunningham went straight into the side at the expense of David Reeves for the visit of league leaders Southend United. He laid on the 63rd minute matchwinner for Julian Darby to keep Bolton in the top three.

Phil Brown and Tony Philliskirk were among the players voted by their fellow professionals in the P.F.A. Third Division side.



LEFT: Tony Philliskirk celebrates Mark Patterson's equaliser at Tranmere.
TOP: Mark Patterson celebrates Bolton's third goal against Fulham.
ABOVE: Tony Cunningham in action on his debut.
BELOW: Scott Green heads Wanderers consolation against Bury at Burnden.



A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

APRIL 1991

Phil Neal remained optimistic about the club's promotion hopes after the set back of losing 2-1 to rivals Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium.

He had every right to be for the Wanderers were unlucky not to have earned some reward for their total dominance of the second half in which the Cambridge goal led a charmed life.

Lee Philpott shot United into a 31st minute lead and it was from his corner, the home sides only one of the second half, that John Taylor capitalised on a miss-timed punch by David Felgate to head a second.

Cambridge keeper John Vaughan produced the impossible to deny Mark Seagraves who had turned round thinking the ball was on its way in. As it was, the Wanderers only had a Tony Philliskirk goal seven minutes from time to cheer.

Sunday football returned to Burnden for the visit of Birmingham City, the Wanderers looking to keep up their record of never having lost a competitive game on the Sabbath.

Tony Philliskirk set things alight with a 33rd minute free kick that crept just inside the angle of the bar and post for his 24th goal of the season. Five minutes later he became goalmaker, setting up Julian Darby to head Bolton's second. John Gayle pulled one back for City just before the interval but Tony Cunningham wrapped things up with his first goal for the club in the 64th minute.

The Wanderers were still in third position in the league with a four point cushion over Tranmere, both clubs having six games to play. Cambridge however, were looking menacing despite losing at Grimsby, they were ten points behind with five games in hand.

Phil Brown's amazing run of consistency came to an end when he was forced to miss the game at Bournemouth, his first absence since joining the club in July 1988. In the reshuffle Mark Seagraves went to full back and Mark Came returned for his first start since January.

An 11th minute goal from Richard Cooke gave play off hopefuls Bournemouth the points but Bolton looked back on a penalty appeal and second half domination to realise that they could ill afford any further defeats in the final run in.

Relegation threatened Crewe Alexandra took a 13th minute lead through Rob Edwards at Gresty Road but on this occasion Bolton remained disciplined to hit back and secure a 3-1 win.

Tony Philliskirk added two more goals to his total, both from the penalty spot to put Bolton in front. In the 56th and 71st minutes he sent Crewe keeper Andy Gorton the wrong

way and ten minutes from time substitute David Reeves rounded things off.

Reeves again found himself on the bench against Leyton Orient at Burnden but his introduction to the game in the 64th minute again brought about the desired effect.

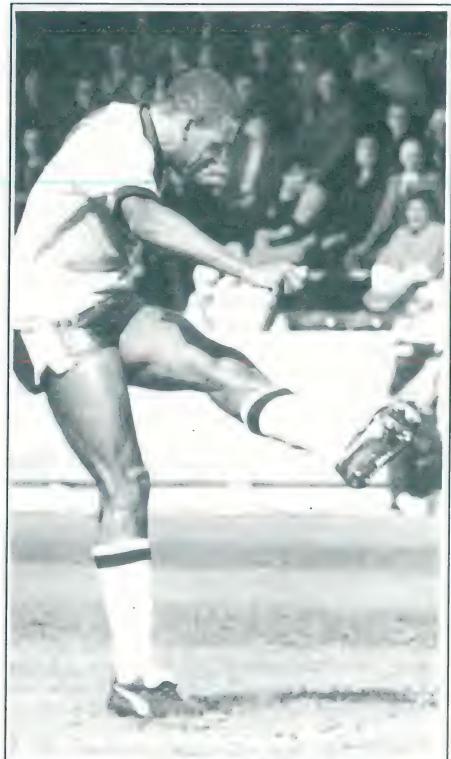
Orient's tactics had spoiled and stifled the game and it looked as if the Londoners were going to steal a share of the points that could kill off any promotion hopes.

In the dying seconds Mark Seagraves' high cross was headed down by Steve Thompson and Reeves was on hand to score the winner from close range to ease the tension that had built up. Leyton, for their part, incurred the wrath of the Burnden crowd as they left the pitch with 'justice' having been done.

It's one thing to win a game with a late goal, but to have victory snatched away at the death, when every point is precious is another and this is what the Wanderers had to suffer at Rotherham.

The Yorkshire side, needing points themselves to stave off relegation, went in front thanks to Shaun Goodwin's 36th minute goal. Bolton hit back after the interval with a Tony Cunningham double and then, in injury time, a wayward shot from Neil Richardson struck Peter Duffield and ended up in the net to deny Wanderers their first victory at Millmoor for 25 years.

Cambridge overtook Bolton in the race for promotion and it now looked as if the race was between the Wanderers and Grimsby for the third promotion spot.



Tony Cunningham strikes his second goal at Rotherham United.

Tony Cunningham hits the Wanderers third goal against Birmingham—his first for the club.



A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

APRIL 1991



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TOP, David Reeves on the mark at Crewe and BELOW, his late winner against Leyton Orient.

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

MAY/JUNE 1991

The Wanderers wound up their away programme with a visit to Swansea City which has never been a happy hunting ground down the years. The agenda was simple, Bolton had to win and Grimsby had to lose at Stoke, that would leave the Wanderers having to beat Chester at Burnden to become a second division club.

Things started awkwardly when after only 5 minutes Mark Seagraves was harshly judged to have fouled Chris Coleman and David Penney converted the penalty.

In the fast and furious encounter, in complete contrast to the fixture twelve months earlier, Bolton hit back to equalise when Julian Darby ran from midfield to smash a glorious shot into the roof of the net.

After the interval Alan Stubbs, who continued to perform beyond his years, raced back to clear a goalbound effort from Paul Raynor off his own line. This scare prompted Bolton into action and, in the 77th minute, Tony Philliskirk set up Stuart Storer to hit a right foot volley high into the goal to record yet another away win, the 10th of the season setting a new club post war record.

All of a sudden things looked to be going to plan, a 2-1 win secured and news that Grimsby had lost at the Victoria Ground sent both players and a 2,000 following into scenes of jubilation.

Sadly the excitement turned to disappointment when it was learned that Grimsby had in fact drawn, thus taking the promotion initiative out of Wanderers hands by virtue of a superior goal difference.

Once Tony Cunningham had headed Barry Cowdrill's 29th minute

cross into the net, against Chester in the final game, attentions switched to the East Coast and Grimsby's encounter with Exeter.

The Wanderers kept their mind on the job and defeated Chester but it was all an anti-climax when it was leaned that Grimsby had won 2-1 to win promotion on goal difference.

The play offs now beckoned with local rivals Bury, who had finished ten points behind Bolton, hosting the first leg at Gigg Lane before an all ticket Sunday crowd. At the end of the first 90 minutes the tie remained nicely poised after a 1-1 draw which saw two penalties calmly converted.

The first spot kick came three minutes from the interval, David Lee converting for Bury after he had been brought down by Alan Stubbs. On the hour Mark Kearney upended Steve Thompson and Player of the Year

Tony Philliskirk stepped up to score his 27th of the season.

At Burnden 19,198, the club's best gate for 10 years, saw Philliskirk clinch a nerve racking victory with a goal on the stroke of half time and with it a 2-1 aggregate success.

Phil Neal unashamedly wept tears of joy as Wanderers reached Wembley to stand just 90 minutes away from the second division. A pitch invasion greeted the final whistle and the players saluted the fans from the press box as they geared themselves for a showdown with Tranmere Rovers ten days later.

Rovers had reached Wembley by defeating Brentford and a week before the play off final lost to Birmingham City in the Leyland DAF cup final, also under the Twin Towers.

Bolton had nothing to fear, having taken four points from Rovers in the

Paul Comstive in action at Wembley.



A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

MAY/JUNE 1991



Tony Philliskirk sweeps home Wanderers winner against Bury

and..... celebrates in fine attire!

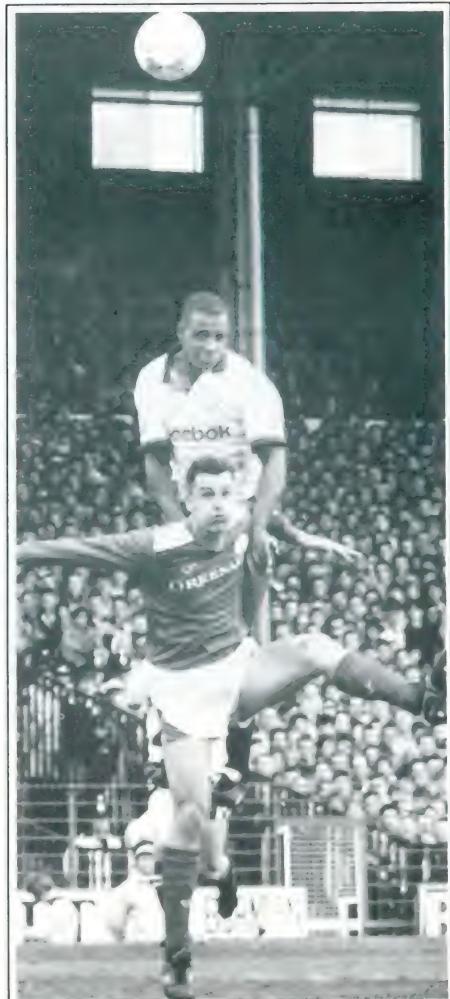


league and beaten them in a Leyland DAF cup qualifying tie, also having a five point advantage in the final league table to boot.

Sadly dreams of promotion died when an extra time goal from Chris Malkin presented Tranmere with promotion and condemned Bolton to another season in division three.

Maybe the Bury tie had taken its toll both mentally and physically on the players but the Wanderers failed to do themselves justice before a disappointing crowd of 30,217.

Tony Cunningham's winner against Chester.



A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

OTHER FIRST TEAM GAMES



David Burke in action at Lincoln United



Stuart Storer in action against Burnley

31st July 1990
Friendly v Lancaster City (A)
Won 5-1
Scorers: Brown (2), Thompson,
Cowdrill, Stubbs

TEAM
Felgate, Brown, Burke, Griffiths,
Came, Winstanley, Green,
Thompson, Reeves, Philliskirk,
Darby.
Subs: Stubbs, Crombie, Cowdrill,
Storer, Jeffrey, Fisher, Comstive,
Clarke (all used)

7th August 1990
Friendly v Lincoln United (A)
Won 3-0
Scorers: Cowdrill, Green, Reeves.

TEAM
Felgate, Brown, Cowdrill, Burke,
Came, Crombie, Green, Thompson,
Reeves, Philliskirk, Darby.
Subs: Winstanley for Crombie,
Stubbs for Brown, Storer for
Thompson, Jeffrey for Philliskirk,
Griffiths for Cowdrill, Clark for
Felgate.



A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

LANCASHIRE MANX CUP



David Reeves wins the first of two penalties against Blackpool



Freddie Hill salutes to crowd
before his testimonial against Manchester City.

11th August 1990
v Wigan Athletic (A)

Drew 0-0
TEAM

Felgate, Brown, Cowdrill, Burke,
Came, Winstanley, Green,
Thompson, Reeves, Philliskirk,
Darby.
Attendance 1837

14th August 1990
v Blackpool (H)

Won 2-0

Scorer: Philliskirk (2 penalties)
TEAM

Felgate, Brown, Cowdrill, Burke,
Came, Winstanley, Green,
Thompson, Reeves, Philliskirk,
Darby. Subs: Jeffrey for Philliskirk,
Stubbs for Winstanley.
Attendance 1588

18th August 1991

v Burnley (H)

Won 3-0

Scorers: Storer, Thompson, Reeves.
TEAM

Felgate, Brown, Burke, Green, Came, Stubbs, Storer,
Thompson, Reeves, Jeffrey, Darby. Sub: Crombie for Came.
Attendance 2649

21st August 1990

Final v Preston North End (H)

Won 2-1

Scorer: Reeves (2)
TEAM

Felgate, Brown, Cowdrill, Green, Came, Winstanley, Storer,
Thompson, Reeves, Philliskirk, Darby. Sub: Burke for Storer
Attendance 4585

15th October 1990

Freddie Hill Testimonial v Manchester City (H)

Won 2-1

Scorers: Philliskirk, Thompson
TEAM

Felgate, Brown, Cowdrill, Green, storer, Winstanley, Lee,
Thompson, Reeves, Philliskirk, Darby. Subs: Stubbs for
Winstanley,
Stevens for Philliskirk, Fisher for Storer, Henshaw for Green,
Came for Lee, Rose for Felgate.
Attendance 2810

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

Date	H/A	Opponent	F	A	Scorer	Att
1. AUG.	25	A SHREWSBURY T.	1	0	STORER	4608
2. SEPT.	1	H BRADFORD C.	0	1		7031
3.	8	A HUDDERSFIELD T.	0	4		5419
4.	16	H CREWE ALEX.	3	2	PHILLISKIRK, GREEN, DARBY	4933
5.	19	H PRESTON N.E.	1	2	DARBY	5844
6.	22	A BRENTFORD	2	4	GREEN, REEVES	5077
7.	28	A WIGAN ATH.	1	2	PHILLISKIRK (PEN)	4366
8. OCT.	2	H MANSFIELD T.	1	1	REEVES	3631
9.	6	H STOKE C.	0	1		8521
10.	13	A BURY	2	2	THOMPSON, PHILLISKIRK (PEN)	5634
11.	20	A LEYTON ORIENT	1	0	STORER	4121
12.	23	H ROTHERHAM U.	0	0		4692
13.	27	H SWANSEA C.	1	0	PHILLISKIRK	4158
14. NOV.	3	A CHESTER C.	2	0	REEVES, PHILLISKIRK	2553
15.	10	H READING	3	1	THOMPSON (2) (1PEN), REEVES	4648
16.	24	A GRIMSBY T.	1	0	GREEN	6240
17. DEC.	1	H TRANMERE R.	2	1	GREEN, PHILLISKIRK	6941
18.	15	A FULHAM	1	0	PHILLISKIRK	3466
19.	22	H CAMBRIDGE U.	2	2	STORER, THOMPSON	5800
20.	26	A SOUTHEND U.	1	1	GREEN	7539
21.	29	A BIRMINGHAM C.	3	1	PHILLISKIRK, DARBY, REEVES	7318
22. JAN.	1	H BOURNEMOUTH	4	1	COMTIVE (2), PHILLISKIRK (PEN), DARBY	7639
23.	12	A BRADFORD C.	1	1	PHILLISKIRK	8764
24.	19	H SHREWSBURY T.	1	0	THOMPSON	6164
25. FEB.	2	A PRESTON N.E.	2	1	PHILLISKIRK (2) (1PEN)	9844
26.	5	H BRENTFORD	1	0	EVANS (OWN GOAL)	6731
27.	9	H HUDDERSFIELD T.	1	1	PHILLISKIRK	7947
28.	13	H EXETER C.	1	0	REEVES	5532
29.	16	H GRIMSBY T.	0	0		10318
30.	23	A READING	1	0	COWDRILL	5997
31. MAR.	1	A TRANMERE R.	1	1	PATTERSON	10076
32.	9	H FULHAM	3	0	PHILLISKIRK (2) (1PEN), PATTERSON	7316
33.	12	A MANSFIELD T.	0	4		3611
34.	16	H WIGAN ATH.	2	1	REEVES, DARBY	7812
35.	19	H BURY	1	3	GREEN	9006
36.	23	A STOKE C.	2	2	DARBY, STORER	13869
37.	26	A EXETER C.	1	2	REEVES	4009
38.	30	H SOUTHEND U.	1	0	DARBY	10666
39. APR.	2	A CAMBRIDGE U.	1	2	PHILLISKIRK	7763
40.	7	H BIRMINGHAM C.	3	1	PHILLISKIRK, DARBY, CUNNINGHAM	11280
41.	13	A BOURNEMOUTH	0	1		7156
42.	16	A CREWE ALEX.	3	1	PHILLISKIRK (2PENS), REEVES	4419
43.	20	H LEYTON ORIENT	1	0	REEVES	7926
44.	27	A ROTHERHAM U.	2	2	CUNNINGHAM (2)	8045
45. MAY	4	A SWANSEA C.	2	1	DARBY, STORER	4713
46.	11	H CHESTER C.	1	0	CUNNINGHAM	12826
PO 1	19	A BURY	1	1	PHILLISKIRK (PEN)	8000
PO 2	22	H BURY	1	0	PHILLISKIRK	19198
PO F JUNE	1	* TRANMERE R.	0	1		30217

*AT WEMBLEY AFTER EXTRA TIME

LEYLAND DAF CUP

Q	NOV.	6	H	TRANMERE R.	1	0	REEVES	3178
Q	DEC.	18	A	BLACKPOOL	0	3		2579

RUMBELOWS CUP

1.1L	AUG.	29	A	HUDDERSFIELD T.	3	0	DARBY (2), PHILLISKIRK (PEN)	4444
1.2L	SEP.	4	H	HUDDERSFIELD T.	2	1	STUBBS, DARBY	3101
2.1L		26	A	COVENTRY C.	2	4	PHILLISKIRK (2)	6193
2.2L	OCT.	9	H	COVENTRY C.	2	3	PHILLISKIRK (2) (1PEN)	5222

FA CUP

1.	NOV.	17	A	WITTON ALB.	2	1	DARBY, COMSTIVE	3790
2.	DEC.	11	A	CHESTERFIELD	4	3	REEVES, PHILLISKIRK, THOMPSON, STORER	4836
3.	JAN.	5	H	BARROW	1	0	PHILLISKIRK	11475
4.		26	A	MANCHESTER UTD.	0	1		43293

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91



Everpresent - Dave Felgate



League debut - Alan Stubbs

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	46	14	5	4	42	22	11	6	6	33	23	86
Southend	46	13	6	4	34	23	13	1	9	33	28	85
Grimsby	46	16	3	4	42	13	8	8	7	24	21	83
BOLTON	46	14	5	4	33	18	10	6	7	31	32	83
Tranmere	46	13	5	5	38	21	10	4	9	26	25	78
Brentford	46	12	4	7	30	22	9	9	5	29	25	76
Bury	46	13	5	4	39	26	7	7	9	28	30	73
Bradford	46	13	3	7	36	22	7	7	9	26	32	70
Bournem'th	46	14	6	3	37	20	5	7	11	21	38	70
Wigan	46	14	3	6	40	20	6	6	11	31	34	69
Hud'l'd.	46	13	3	7	37	23	5	10	8	20	28	67
Birm'ghm	46	8	9	6	21	21	8	8	7	24	28	65
Leyton O.	46	15	2	6	35	19	3	8	12	20	39	64
Stoke	46	9	7	7	36	29	7	5	11	19	30	60
Reading	46	11	5	7	34	28	6	3	14	19	38	59
Exeter	46	12	6	5	35	16	4	3	16	23	36	57
Preston	46	11	5	7	33	29	4	6	13	21	38	56
Shrewsbury	46	8	7	8	29	22	6	3	14	32	46	52
Chester	46	10	3	10	27	27	4	6	13	19	31	51
Swansea	46	8	6	9	31	33	5	3	15	18	39	48
Fulham	46	8	8	7	27	22	2	8	13	14	34	46
Crewe	46	6	9	8	35	35	5	2	16	27	45	44
Roth'ham	46	5	10	8	31	38	5	2	16	19	49	42
Mansfield	46	5	8	10	23	27	3	6	14	19	36	38

	P.BROWN	D.BURKE	M.CAME	P.CONSTIVE	B.COMFRELL	D.CROMBIE	T.CUNNINGHAM	J.DARBY	D.FELGATE	N.FISHER	S.GREEN	G.HENSHAW	S.LEE	M.PATTERSON	T.PHILISKIRK	D.BEEVES	M.SEARAGES	N.SPOONER	I.STEVENS	S.STORER	A.STUBBS	M.WINSTANLEY			
2	3	5	'4					11	1	7				10	9				'12	14	8	6		1.	
2	3	5	'4					11	1	7				10	9				'12	'4	8	6		2.	
2	3	12	'14					11	1	4				'10	9				7	5	8	6		3.	
2	3	15	'14					11	1	4				10	9				7	42	8	6		4.	
2	3	12	6					11	1	4	14			10	9				7	5	8			5.	
2	3	'11	6					11	1	4	'12			10	9	5	14		'12	5	8			6.	
2	'3							11	1	4	'12			10	9	5	'14		7	8	6		7.		
2	'3							11	1	4	'12			10	9	5	'14		7	8	6		8.		
2	'3							11	1	4	'12			10	9	5	'14		7	8	6		9.		
2		3						11	1	4				7	10	'12		'9	5	14	8	6		10.	
2		3						11	1	4				7	10	'12		12	5	14	8	6		11.	
2		3						11	1	4				7	10	'12		'2	5	'14	8	6		12.	
2		3						11	1	4				7	10	'12		'2	7	'14	8	6		13.	
2		3						11	1	4	'14			10	9				'12	7	5	8		14.	
2		3						11	1	4				10	9	5		12	7	14	8	6		15.	
2		3						11	1	4	'12			10	9	5			7	14	8	6		16.	
2		4	3					11	1	10					10	9	5		'12	7	14	8	6		17.
2		4	3					11	1	8				10	9	5		12	7	14	8	6		18.	
2		12	3					11	1	4				10	9	5			7	14	8	6		19.	
2		4	3					11	1	12				10	9	5			7	14	8	6		20.	
2		5	'14	3				11	1	'12				10	9				7	14	8	6		21.	
2		5	4	3				'2	11	1	'12			10	9				'7	'14	8	6		22.	
2		5	4	3				11	1	'12				10	9				7	14	8	6		23.	
2		5	'14	3				11	1	'12				10	9				7	8	6			24.	
2		14	3					11	1	'12				10	9				7	8	6			25.	
2		12	3					11	1	7				4	10	9	5		14	8	6			26.	
2		12	3					11	1	7				4	10	9	5		14	8	6			27.	
2		'14	3					11	1	'7				4	10	9	5		12	8	6			28.	
2		14	3					11	1	7				4	10	9	5		'12	8	6			29.	
2		14	3					11	1	7				4	10	9	5		12	8	6			30.	
2		14	3					11	1	7				4	10	9	5		12	8	6			31.	
2		14	3					11	1	7				4	10	9	5		12	8	6			32.	
2		'2	14	3				11	1	7				'2	4	10	9	5		'12	8	6			33.
2		14	3					11	1	7				4	9	5		10	'12	8	16			34.	
2		'2	14	3				11	1	'7				4	9	5			10	6	8			35.	
2		3	14	4				11	1	'12				'4	10	9	5		7	6	8			36.	
2		3	14	4				11	1	'12				10	9	5			'7	6	8			37.	
2		3	14	4				9	11	1	7			'4	10	12	5		'14	6	8			38.	
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	7			10	12	5			'2	4	6			39.	
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	7			4	10	12	5		14	6	8			40.	
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	'2			10	12	5			2	6	8			41.	
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	'2			'2	4	10	12	5		7	6	8			42.
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	'2			'2	4	10	12	5		'7	6	8			43.
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	14			'4	10	12	5		7	6	8			44.	
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	14			10	12	5			7	6	8			45.	
2		3	2	4				'9	11	1	14			10	12	5			7	6	8			46.	
2		4	3					'9	11	1	'14			10	12	5			7	6	8			PO1.	
2		4	3					'9	11	1	'14			10	12	5			7	6	8			PO2.	
2		4	3					'9	11	1	14			10	12	5			7	6	8			POF.	
App.	48	13	8	15	38	2	12	48	49	33	1	4	18	46	36	35	1	33	19	48	32				
Sub App.	1	6	1							10	3	1	9		4	5	7								
Goals		2	1	4	9					6		2	21	10		5	5								
2		3	5	4				11	1	7				10	9	5			12	14	8	6		111.	
2	3	'14	12					11	1	4				'10	9				7	5	8	6		121.	
2	3	5	5					11	1	4	12			10	9	6	14		7	8			211.		
2		3	3			</																			

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

IN RESERVE

In many respects the reserve season mirrored that of the first team but with a happier outcome. A poor start to the campaign was followed by an unbeaten run of 14 games. This kept Bolton up with the pacemakers before a mixed bag of results in the final run in which saw a return to the first division of the Central League for the first time since 1984.

Three defeats in the opening four fixtures, all at Burnden, didn't augur well for a promotion campaign, but the team embarked on their impressive run at the end of September with a 3-2 home win over Notts County.

During this spell the club recorded their 1000th Central League win, defeating Middlesbrough 2-0 at Ayresome Park and also hit Blackpool with a seven goal blitz at Burnden in which Alan Stubbs scored a hat trick.

Indeed Burnden Park was full value for entertainment with the 17 games producing 68 goals, an average of exactly 4 per game.

Promotion rivals Hull City inflicted the Wanderers first away defeat of the season at the end of February which was also the first reversal on opponents

territory since March 1990.

In the final run in, which was completed with two games played each mid week, the Wanderers began to slip up. After a 6-1 defeat of York, only one point was taken from four games as numerous chances failed to be turned into goals.

Bolton went into the final two games knowing exactly what was required—maximum points to overhaul Hull City who had completed their programme and had a five point advantage.

The first game was at Bradford City who fielded a strong side and had already won promotion. Two David Reeves goals, one in each half and a battling performance ensured that the first half of the double was completed.

Two days later Burnden's best reserve gate of the season saw a tense encounter with Scunthorpe United. The visitors did their best to spoil the party but once again the determination shown at Valley Parade was forthcoming and Bolton ran out 2-1 winners in an exciting finale.

Mike Jeffrey and Ian Stevens ended the term as leading goalscorers with 13 goals apiece whilst Neil Fisher was the

only everpresent in a team that often had a nice blend of youth and experience.



Neil Fisher - everpresent

PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom.	34	23	7	4	77	27	76
Barnsley	34	23	7	4	84	39	76
BOLTON W.	34	17	9	8	70	42	60
Bradford C.	34	19	3	12	71	52	60
Hull City	34	18	5	11	61	49	59
Notts Co.	34	16	6	12	56	46	54
Middlesbro	34	15	8	11	62	50	53
Burnley	34	13	11	10	53	48	50
Port Vale	34	14	5	15	61	72	47
Oldham A.	34	12	7	15	81	79	43
Stoke C.	34	12	5	17	51	67	41
Scunthorpe U.	34	10	10	14	45	60	40
Mansfield T.	34	10	8	16	45	49	38
York City	34	11	5	18	53	78	38
Grimsby T.	34	10	5	19	28	56	35
Blackpool	34	9	6	19	62	84	33
Wigan Ath.	34	9	3	22	56	94	30
Preston NE	34	6	8	20	59	83	26

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 1990/91

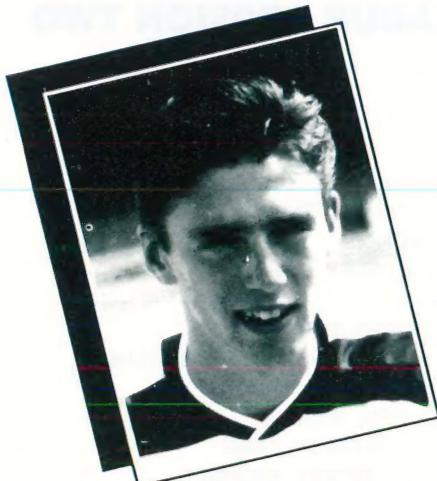
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man. Utd. A	30	20	6	4	85	28	66
Man. City A	30	20	5	5	86	47	65
Everton A	30	20	4	6	84	46	64
Blackburn R. A	30	17	4	9	63	45	55
Liverpool A	30	16	4	10	64	46	52
Marine Res.	30	14	9	7	59	45	51
Crewe Alex. A	30	15	5	10	93	54	50
Preston N.E. A	30	12	6	12	72	64	42
Carlisle Utd. R	30	10	8	12	63	49	38
Rochdale A	30	11	3	16	49	71	36
Burnley A	30	9	8	13	60	63	35
Morecambe Res.	30	9	3	18	50	79	30
BOLTON WAND. A	30	8	5	17	49	62	29
Accrington St.R	30	6	9	15	34	84	27
Chester City A	30	6	7	17	36	72	25
UMIST	30	3	2	25	20	112	11



The Whites are going up. The team that defeated Scunthorpe United at Burnden to secure promotion.

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

IN RESERVE



Mike Jeffrey — 13 goals



Goalkeeper Kevin Rose



David Reeves hit vital goals

OTHER RESERVE GAMES

2nd August 1990

Friendly v Horwich RMI (A)

Won 4-1

Scorers: Fisher, Comstive, Spooner, Hart (own goal)

6th August 1990

Friendly v Darwen (A)

Lost 0-2

13th August 1990

Friendly v Hyde United (A)

Lost 0-1

F. A. YOUTH CUP

6th September 1990

Preliminary Round v Preston North End (H)

Won 4-1

Scorers: Lewin, B. Smith, Bentham, Edge

24th September 1990

1st Qualifying Round v Marine (H)

Won 5-1

Scorers: B. Smith (2), Birks, Bentham, Mason

8th October 1990

2nd Qualifying Round v Accrington Stanley (A)

Won 3-0

Scorers: Lewin (2), Birks

2nd November 1990

1st Round Proper v Oldham Athletic (H)

Drew 3-3

Scorers: Bentham, B. Smith, Birks

9th November 1990

1st Round Proper Replay v Oldham Athletic (A)

Lost 0-2

LANCASHIRE FA YOUTH CUP

26th November 1990

2nd Round v Blackpool (H)

Lost 1-4

Scorer: Edge

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

IN RESERVE

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Date	H/A	Opponent	F	A	Scorer	Att
1. AUG.	27	H BRADFORD C	1	3	STORER	130
2. SEPT.	5	H BARNSLEY	0	1		80
3.	11	A PRESTON NE	2	0	LEWIN, HENSHAW (PEN)	
4.	19	H BURNLEY	2	3	JEFFREY, NEAL	120
5.	27	H NOTTS COUNTY	3	2	STEVENS, JEFFREY, FISHER	113
6. OCT.	3	A SCUNTHORPE U.	1	1	STEVENS	
7.	10	A MIDDLESBROUGH	2	0	FISHER, STORER (PEN)	
8.	17	H BLACKPOOL	7	3	STUBBS (3), JEFFREY (2), REEVES, FISHER	157
9.	24	A WEST BROM. ALB.	0	0		
10. NOV.	7	A MANSFIELD TOWN	2	1	HENSHAW (PEN), STUBBS	
11.	14	H GRIMSBY TOWN	4	1	STEVENS (2), JEFFREY, CAME	145
12.	20	A GRIMSBY TOWN	4	0	STEVENS (2), JEFFREY, SPOONER	
13.	28	H MANSFIELD TOWN	1	0	OLIVER	151
14. DEC.	5	H PORT VALE	1	1	JEFFREY	147
15.	19	A STOKE CITY	1	1	STEVENS	
16. JAN.	9	H HULL CITY	0	0		103
17.	30	H PRESTON NE	5	0	JEFFREY, STEVENS, FISHER, PRICE, LEWIN	160
18. FEB.	11	H STOKE CITY	4	3	CRANSON (OG), STEVENS (2), STUBBS	146
19.	20	A HULL CITY	0	3		
20.	27	A PORT VALE	4	3	JEFFREY, STEVENS, STUBBS (2)	
21. MAR.	6	H OLDHAM ATH.	3	1	JEFFREY, CAME, STEVENS	247
22.	27	A WIGAN ATH.	0	0		
23. APR.	3	A YORK CITY	3	3	OLIVER (2), BENTHAM	
24.	9	H WIGAN ATH.	5	0	REEVES (3), STORER, FISHER	234
25.	15	A OLDHAM ATH.	1	0	COMSTIVE	
26.	17	A NOTTS COUNTY	1	3	WINSTANLEY	
27.	22	H YORK CITY	6	1	JEFFREY (2), GREEN (PEN), CAME, COMSTIVE, OLIVER	203
28.	24	H WEST BROM. ALB.	0	2		259
29.	29	A BARNSLEY	0	1		
30. MAY	1	H MIDDLESBROUGH	1	1	STEVENS	236
31.	6	A BURNLEY	1	2	GREEN	
32.	8	A BLACKPOOL	1	1	GREEN (PEN)	
33.	13	A BRADFORD C.	2	0	REEVES (2)	
34.	15	H SCUNTHORPE U.	2	1	REEVES, JEFFREY	300



Steve Carroll
Youth/Reserve team coach

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

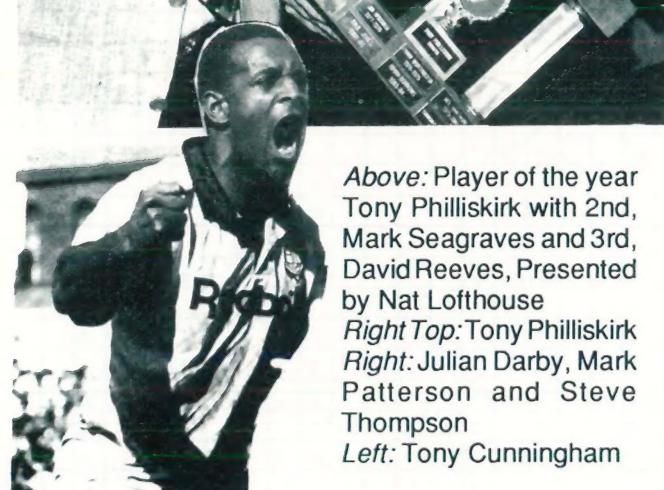
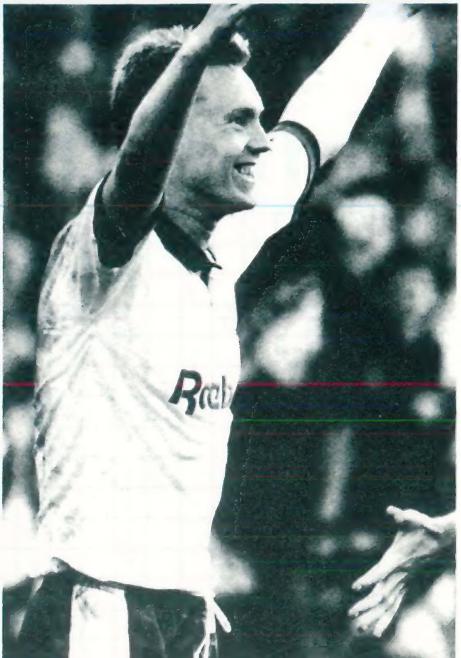
IN RESERVE

N. BENTHAM	S. BIRKS	L. BRAGG	G. BROWN	M. BROWN	P. BROWN	D. BURKE	M. GAME	C. CLARKE	S. COFFEY	P. COMSTIVE	B. COWDRILL	D. CRONBIE	D. EDGE	D. FISHER	S. GREEN	G. HENSHAW	A. HOWARD	M. JEFFREY	S. LEE	C. LEWIN	J. MCGOWEN	P. NEAL	D. OLIVER	D. PRICE	D. REEVES	A. ROSCOE	K. ROSE	M. SEAGRAVES	B. SMITH	N. SPOONER	I. STEVENS	S. STORER	A. STUBBS	M. WINSTANLEY
12		2						13	8	6	14	11	7	9							1	4		10	5			1.						
		2		5				11	23	6	22	10	17	9				8			1	14	4			2.								
			2	5				8	6	11	4	9	9	10				14			1	12	3	7		3.								
6	10	17						3	8	14	2	4	9					11			1	12	5			4.								
112	7	14						3	8	11	4	9					5			1	2	10	16		5.									
	14							8	3	6	11	7	9	4			12			1	2	10	5		6.									
6	10			5	14	8				11	4	9					3			1	12	2	7		7.									
6	12			5	14	8				11	7	10					3	9	1	2		4			8.									
112		13	5		8	6	7	4	10	214			211				1	2	9						9.									
14			5	8	11	7	4	10					3			1	12	2	9	6				10.										
114	12		5	8	11	7	14	10					3			1	2	9	6						11.									
6	12		5	8	11	14	7			10			3			1	2	9	4						12.									
112	14		6	5		11	7	14	10				3			1	2	9	8						13.									
6	12		8	5	14		11	7		10			3			1	2	9	4						14.									
12	14		6		8	11	7	4	10				3			1	2	9	5						15.									
14			8			11	7	4	10	19			3			1	5	2	12	6						16.								
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			3	5	1	8		11	7	10	214			12	14		2	29	6							19.								
214			6	5	1	8		11	7	10	12	2		3	14				9	2						20.								
			3	5	1	8		11	4	10			12	14				2	9	17	6					21.								
6			5	14			11	8	4	10			3	12		1	2	9	7							22.								
6	12			3		2	11	4	10	9			8			1	14	5	7						23.									
114			5	8		11	4	10	212			3	29	1	2	7	16								24.									
6			5	2	8		12	11	14	10	9		3			1	14	7							25.									
214			24	5	8		11	7		10	19		3			1	2	12	6						26.									
			13	5	8		7	4	10	9	14		11	12	1		2		6						27.									
			14	5	8		7	4	10	112			3	9	11	1		2		6					28.									
			14	5	8		7	4	10	12			3	9	11	1		2		6					29.									
			14	5	8		7	4	12			3	9	11	1		2	10	6						30.									
2			5	14	8		11	7		10	12		3	9	1		4		6						31.									
14			5	3	8		7	4	10	12		11	9	1		2		6							32.									
14			8	5	3		7	4	10	12		11	9	1		2		6							33.									
14			8	5	3		7	4	10	12		11	9	1		2		6							34.									
TOTAL																																		
APPS.	8	3	3	1	1	14	27	3	8	26	2	12	1	34	12	22	2	32	1	5	1	3	24	3	9	3	31	1	32	17	7	15	11	
SUB.	7	1	1							2			1	8			2	1		1		4		2										
GOALS	1					3			2			5	3	2		13	2	1	4	1	7			1	13	3	7	1						

1 OWN GOAL

A COMPLETE RECORD 1990/91

CELEBRATION



Above: Player of the year Tony Philliskirk with 2nd, Mark Seagraves and 3rd, David Reeves, Presented by Nat Lofthouse

Right Top: Tony Philliskirk
Right: Julian Darby, Mark Patterson and Steve Thompson

Left: Tony Cunningham



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